continuance of that standard by obtaining the services of an experienced indexer. Some publishing houses which only occasionally publish law books do not always appreciate to the same extent the needs of their readers, and then we meet the all too common example of poor and inadequate indexing.

It is hoped enough has been said to demonstrate some of the problems to be met in legal indexing. It is a

difficult task but one which can, with patience and industry, be learned after a fairly long apprenticeship.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

This article derived initially from notes of a lecture delivered at the North-Western Polytechnic.

Biography

A. R. (Reg) Hewitt (1907–2005) was a librarian by profession, who turned to part-time indexing in 1924 (with the sorting and alphabetizing of his medical librarian father's manuscript slips), and continued for some 70 years until, as he phrased it, the use of computers put a stop to his work. A founder member of SI, he was its first chairman from 1958–59, the first chairman of The Indexer editorial board, and first chairman of the board of assessors for the Register of Indexers. He continued to be active in SI until shortly before his death. An informative obituary was published in The Indexer 24(4), 228.

Legal Information Management, 14 (2014), pp. 239–242 © The Author(s) 2014. Published by British and Irish Association of Law Librarians

doi:10.1017/S1472669614000498

Current Awareness

Compiled by Katherine Read and Laura Griffiths at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies

This Current Awareness column, and previous Current Awareness columns, are fully searchable in the caLIM database (Current Awareness for Legal Information Managers). The caLIM database is available on the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies website at: http://ials.sas.ac.uk/library/caware/caware.htm

The 'Cardiff Index to Legal Abbreviations' is available at http://www.legalabbrevs.cardiff.ac.uk/

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